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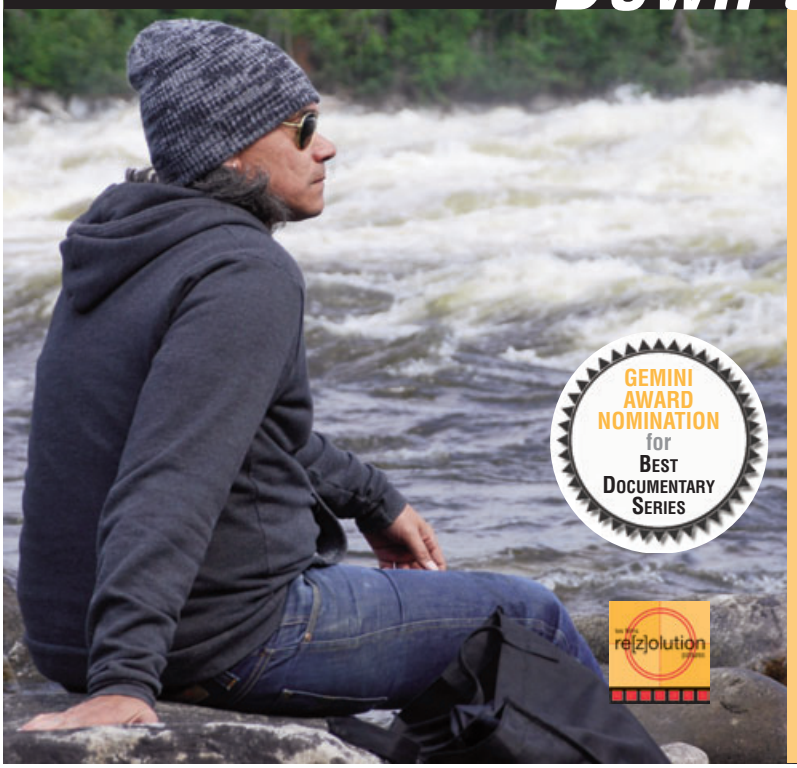

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Finding the right path

By Will Nicholls

They say persecution is the systematic mistreatment of one group by another and one of the most commons forms is religious persecution. As a matter of fact, in the 2000 years of the Christian faith, about 70 million believers have been killed for their faith.

In fact, historically, what is considered the cradle of civilization; the Roman Empire was clearly the basis for the spread of Christianity throughout what they knew of the world at that time.

This lead to cultural stressors resulting from martyrdom and persecution that ultimately determined the ways in which later Christian practitioners and religious authorities would act.

An argument could be made they could be their own worst enemies. From differing interpretations of the written word, the Crusades, the desperation of a king who would promote Protestantism in order to begat a heir, the fleeing of the Puritans to the New World and the Christianization of South and North America are prime indicators of this. Then there is the First Nations residential experience of education through Christian schools in order to ensure that one group of people became like another.

A case in point is in the past Mistissini Cree would hear the sounds of a hunter beating his drum while singing his hunting song in our village. Everyone would know to go to his home and take a bit of food. That was the way they let us know that they had game to share freely. The church was concerned as the drums represented the part of the land the hunters and talleymen were responsible for. Because of that the drums were banned in the community.

By these actions Christian faith had shown its power over traditional beliefs and practices. Your children could be taken without your permission and your faith and customs were shown to be impotent.

Many Cree traditional spiritual practitioners stopped displaying the ceremonies.

Only in the last decade or so has the spiritual customs resurfaced. More and more Cree are interested in looking at Cree time-honoured traditions as an alternative to mainstream choices when looking at the well-being and healing for themselves. A recent family-violence conference saw many Christian leaders acknowledge that personal changes in behaviour to a more traditional Cree way of life could benefit both the individual and local community.

That was also the consensus at this year's Grand Council/CRA Annual General Assembly. They even passed a resolution on people's "Freedom of Rite."

It was about freedom of religion, a right protected by the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, the Quebec Charter of Human Rights and Freedom and now the Government of Eeyou Istchee, our own Grand Council. Some resolutions become regional by-laws and now are part of the Cree rule of law, which in part reads, "Whereas it is up to each individual to continue to freely practice their religious and spiritual beliefs within the Eeyou Istchee." This is now a regional by-law.

All of this is no comfort to Lana Wapachee, a resident of Oujé-Bougoumou. The O.J. Band Council has told her to take down the sweat lodge she has in her yard.

I can feel her pain to be told that she cannot seek a path through creation to the creator in her own way.

When you really look at it the differences in beliefs seem to be trivial. The Cree traditionalists have guiding spirits, sometimes animals, while Christians have guiding angels. It is the same for guardian or helpful angels and spirits in either Christian or Cree beliefs. Ultimately everyone believes in one creator and maybe each have embraced their right and proper way of establishing a relationship with the creator. The paths need not be the same as none of us can really comprehend the totality of the creator and can best approach understanding in a certain way.

But Oujé-Bougoumou may be facing some serious questions soon. For example, what will be the court costs of enforcing a by-law in face of going against a federal and provincial charter law and a Cree Nation by-law? Can a community's well-being afford to deny free will to its residents, whoever and how they worship?

A denial of freedom to worship or seek a path that is right for an individual only denies the Creator's greatest gift to all of humanity when we were given free will.

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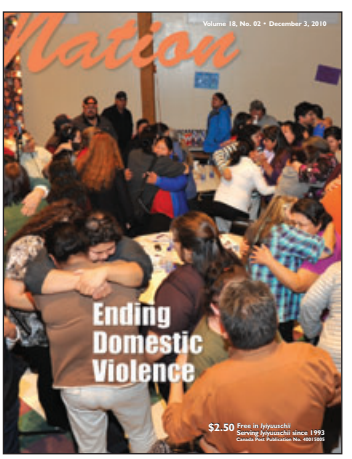

Why I like APTN

By Sonny Orr

One of my favourite things to do on a cold stormy night is to watch television shows of any variety. I usually tune into APTN National News, just to see if I can recognize anyone passing by in any of the many protest across the country. Sometimes, I would see someone who I knew like back in the '80s and I would gasp in surprise with how much they have aged. I guess protesting all the time wears you out quicker than being a pacifist like me. I prefer to watch people getting tear gassed rather than get soaked by a water cannon, because water is getting scarce and we shouldn't waste good water on protestors.

Another reason I like watching APTN is because sometimes I recognize people's names in the credits. So I replay them over and over again until everyone's eyes have rolled over too many times and angry wrinkles appear to protest my inane knowledge of the person in question. Sometimes, it's just the building I recognize and I would recount how many times or when I had entered that particular building. One such building was in Lethbridge and was actually designed by a late friend of mine from Mistissini.

Sometimes, reruns of Adventures in Rainbow Country would show up and I would show off the hero as someone everyone knew as Buckley Petawabano. I just couldn't figure out how in the name of the Creator that so many intriguing international incidents could happen in the middle of Quebec and why was it happening just in the early '70s? Only the producer would know.

I also like watching the music shows and how much we all seem to sound the same across the country. No matter where the artist comes from, there's always that Aboriginal distinction and accent that seems to tell us that this artist comes from just around our neighbourhood. What I like best of all the shows are the closed-captioned versions of local themes and varietal languages that often make understanding anything.

What hits the top of my watch list are, of course, the Cree language shows. I remember back in the day when a good camera cost 20 grand or so and you needed muscles to carry around the batteries and lighting equipment. Video in those days was an expensive option for us to promote our own language and culture. But today, the cheapest digital point-and-shoot camera totally outdoes the cumbersome tapes we had to use. The whole aspect of editing was like arguing over a frame, should it stay in or end up on the cutting floor? Today, kids can make their own movies using simple programs, and the end results would put us highly trained and experienced videographers to shame. Anyone with a good eye and feel for what people like to watch can make their own productions, easy as pie, even easier, I think.

That brings me to my ultimate show, which is Reel Injun, one of the few movies that actually drew a tear from my usually dry eyes. It made me remember what it was like to like cowboys again. Even though we were supposed to be on our own side, everyone wanted to be the cowboy, because cowboys never really died, only the Injuns got killed. So as the movies made our own image in the likeness of the bad guys, today, it's good to be an Aboriginal on the big screen just because we still have a lot of land left untouched by industry and progress. Today, we seem to be the new good guy, the new cowboy version updated and improved, where the only things that get killed are the cattle.

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EDITORIAL BOARD
L. Stewart, W. Nicholls, N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF
Will Nicholls

IYIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR
Brian Webb

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Martin Siberok

CONTRIBUTING WRITERS
N. Diamon, E. Webb, S. Orr, A. German, X. Kataquapit,

PHOTOGRAPHY
A. German, N. Diamond, W. Nicholls, D. Valade

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVES
Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR
Claire MacKinnon

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:
POSTMASTER:
The Nation PRODUCTION OFFICE
4529 CLARK, #403
MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3
EDITORIAL & ADS
TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914
The Nation HEAD OFFICE
P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0
www.nationnews.ca
E-MAIL ADDRESSES:
Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com
news@beesum-communications.com
Ads: for Danielle Valade
ads@beesum-communications.com
for Ginette Gregoire
publicity@beesum-communications.com
Classifieds: beesum@beesum-communications.com

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No longer a hold-out

Canada has finally signed the UN declaration but some question the government's real commitment

By Will Nicholls

On November 12, the Canadian government finally signed the United Nations Declaration of Indigenous Rights. Canada was one of the four countries to vote against granting these rights to its Aboriginal Peoples three years ago. This after the previous federal governments spent years supporting and encouraging Aboriginal Peoples around the world to support the declaration.

In looking back the Crees were part of when First Nations entered the world political arena. In 1989, Chief Ted Moses, of the Grand Council of the Crees in Canada, was the first Indigenous person elected to office at a UN meeting to discuss the effects of racial discrimination on the social and economic situation of Indigenous peoples. Obviously the Crees have supported the need for the declaration while saying it never went far enough and had been watered down.

Realistically though everyone knew that creating such a declaration would be an uphill battle and in the end not everyone would be happy. Indeed, while some First Nations leaders have applauded the move, others are worried over the federal government's press release, which stated, "While the declaration is not legally binding, endorsing it as an important aspirational document is a significant step forward in strengthening relations with Aboriginal peoples."

A Grand Council insider granted it was not unlike a criminal signing an agreement that he or she wouldn't commit a crime but since it wasn't legally binding could do so again with a more or less clear conscience. In effect, the signing really means nothing but is more of a symbolic move.

Other First Nations are more hopeful about what it can ultimately mean. Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs Canada John Duncan said, "Canada has endorsed the declaration to further reconcile and strengthen our relationship with Aboriginal peoples in Canada."

Shawn Atleo, the National Chief of the Assembly of First Nations, said, "In endorsing the UN declaration, Canada is committing to work with us as a true partner to achieve reconciliation as instructed by the courts in Canada."

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said his government backs up words with actions. He said the formal apology to survivors of Canada's Native residential schools resulted in the government's decision to set up the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, so real gains will be seen by the decision to sign the UN declaration.

> "CANADA HAS ENDORSED THE DECLARATION TO FURTHER RECONCILE AND STRENGTHEN OUR RELATIONSHIP WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLES IN CANADA."

Anishinabek Nation Grand Council Chief Patrick Madahbee questions, "We can't understand why it took Canada three years to offer such a lukewarm endorsement? In supporting the UN declaration, Canada took a step forward in its relationship with First Nations, but when it added conditions to the main components of the declaration, Canada took two steps backwards."

He points out what First Nations leaders' hope that will be an argument in their favour. "If they persist in this approach – and continue to ignore court decisions saying we must be consulted on issues affecting our territories – the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples will be the tool we use to take our grievances to the international community," said Madahbee

Shawn Alteo

Grand Chief Stan Beardy from the Nishnawbe Aski Nation said the government had finally did the right thing and agreed with Madahbee. "Although the UN declaration is not legally binding it has a legal effect as it allows the Supreme Court of Canada to have a liberal interpretation of our social, cultural, economic, political, spiritual and environmental rights."

Just to the south the Algonquin Nation has said they welcome Canada's move but will "remain vigilant." Grand Council Chief of the Algonquin Anishinabeg Nation Tribal Council, Lucien Wabanonik said only when First Nations look at law enforcement and government decisions that they will be able to judge the real commitment by Ottawa to respect the declaration. "It will require the government to realize that many of its policies go against the text of the declaration that they've just adopted," said Grand Chief Wabanonik.

Nevertheless, the announcement by Duncan is seen as a positive step forward.

Canada's decision brings to 144 the number of signatories to the declaration.

Perhaps the last hold-out, the United States, will follow Canada's lead and sign the declaration while not accepting it as legally binding on future and past actions.

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Re-connecting with the spiritual past

Harry Snowboy launches his book about his life as a shaman

By Ernest Webb

"Sam Masty, speaking in 1974 at Great Whale River, said Walton was the 'first man to tell people to put away the things they believed; the first to change many people.' Masty explained that the people lost the supernatural powers 'when they heard about Jesus Christ from the missionaries.... The people willfully lost these powers because Reverend Walton said to do so. They listened to him and now today no one has any powers like that."

From: The White Man's Gonna Getcha: The Colonial Challenge to the Crees in Quebec by Toby Morantz

After seeing his daughter write in her diary, Harry Snowboy of Chisasibi was inspired to write the story of his life so far. Snowboy, who is still a young man, was compelled to write a book on his experiences. At his book launch at the Native Friendship Centre in Ottawa in early November, Snowboy said people usually expect an older person to show up when he goes to ceremonies.

A gathering of his family, friends and interested people were on hand for the launch. Among them was Snowboy's wife, Juliana, their children and his friend Clifford Summers, who did the opening prayer song. Actor Adam Beach, with his children in tow, was the special guest. Originally Snowboy just wanted to write down his feelings. "It wasn't meant to be a book. I wanted to write down my feelings. I knew I carried a lot of hurt. I knew that I carried a lot of loneliness."

Early on Snowboy knew he was not like the other children and they let him know. "When I started school that's when I knew I did not fit in. Nobody understood me. The kids did not understand me. I was called Midao. It's not supposed to be a bad word. It was turned into a bad word. It means witch or bad medicine man. Because they couldn't understand me or I talked differently. I talked about spirituality or what I knew. It didn't fit in the classroom or what we were learning."

A Voice from the Wilderness breaks new ground in that is addresses a subject that was largely taboo and misunderstood in the communities. Midewin went underground during the early days of the missionaries and only surfaced again a few

years ago. Snowboy takes a brave step in telling his story of becoming a shaman. In the book, he covers the beginning of his life to where he is today – from the harsh reality of trying to fit in at school to his calling to become a shaman.

"I remember being bullied a lot. There was this one time, I remember being tied up with steel wire and the kids dragging me around like a dog or like a mule. The only peace I found was when I was out with the old people, when I was out on the land. That was the only peace I found," he said.

"At a very young age, I was experiencing supernatural phenomena but to me it was very normal, it was very natural. It was something that was in everyday life because we were always in the bush."

The feelings Snowboy had as he traveled his road were not always pleasant ones. "I started growing up in a world that I felt did not want what it was I grew up with or what it was I was given."

Snowboy exposes a side of Cree life that has remained hidden for generations. "At the age of 8, I heard this voice from the sky. This voice called me. I remember being really terrified. I told him what I heard. I don't remember what he said but I remember feeling very safe. Then again when I was 13 or so I heard the same voice again. This time I told my great uncle. He told me he was going to call me again and what you will have to do is respond to him."

A Voice from the Wilderness is by no means a how-to in becoming a shaman, rather it's a story of what one person went through in becoming one. This book will certainly open your eyes to Snowboy's life. And maybe this book will be the first of others to follow in addressing an aspect of Cree life seldom seen or heard about.

Snowboy's future will certainly have many interesting twists and turns so we will have to wait to see if there will be a follow-up. "As my great uncle said, 'You're going to have to tell him you are ready. And tell him you're going to do what he says.' And I said, 'Why?' 'Because that's the one that gave you life. That's the creator. He has chosen you.'"

A Voice from the Wilderness
A Cree Shaman's Story
By Harry Snowboy
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Man dies in Chisasibi jail cell

Roger Snowboy, 49, was found dead in his police cell after being detained overnight by Chisasibi police on the night of November 18. According to Chisasibi Police Director Samuel House, Snowboy had been picked up by police for public intoxication and disturbances. House stated that Snowboy had been a "regular" at the local police station and he had been brought in many times in the past for similar reasons.

"In morning when we found him, he had stopped breathing at around 6:00 am. We think that he might have choked on his own vomit," said House.

According to House, Snowboy was the only individual who had been brought into the police custody that night and he had no apparent injuries.

An investigation into the matter is currently being carried out by the Sûreté du Québec.

Inuk pilot honoured

Johnny May of Kuujuuaq, Nunavik, was inducted into the Quebec Air and Space Hall of Fame Nov. 23 in Longueil. Along with astronaut Julie Payette and a group of pre-World War I pilots, May was recognized for his contribution in aviation.

May, 65, began flying in the 1960s when the north was still a fabled land of snow and ice.

Born in Kangiqsualujjuaq, May is known throughout the north as a pilot who came through, in good or bad weather, for people in desperate need

or simply dropping candy from his plane to the crowds in the communities during the holiday season.

When asked at the Montreal airport on his way to the ceremony if he had "seen it all", May replied with a smile, "Oh yeah, I've seen it all... dead and alive."

To this day, May still flies out of Kuujuuaq taking sportsmen and other adventurers to their destinations throughout the north.

Foster homes sought

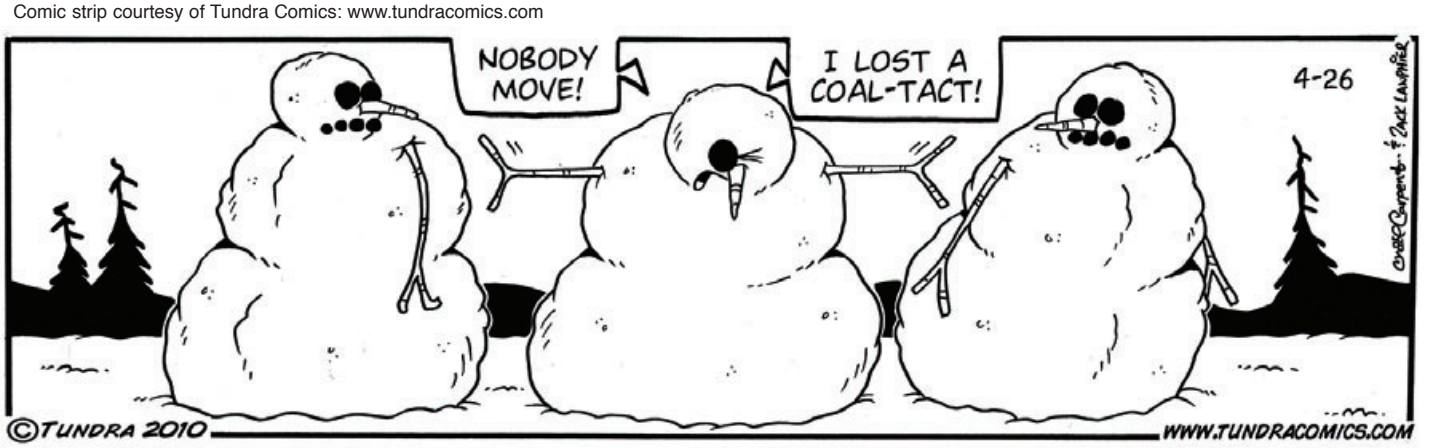
A long-term foster family is being sought for 15-month-old George of Inuit heritage. He is a delightful, happy and curious little boy who loves to be around people. He is walking and has discovered that running allows him to go faster. So George gets into and around things very quickly if he's not closely watched. He loves to play with his toys and is able to play with other children. He has a good daily routine; he eats well and sleeps through the night. George needs a family who can make a commitment to him for as long as he needs. The ideal family would be an Inuit or an Aboriginal family.

May is a cuddly, happy two-month-old baby girl with a good disposition. She is described as easy to care for. When she lies on her tummy she lifts her head "as if she is trying to do push ups". She is very curious, loves to be around people and "tries to get their attention by cooing to them". She has a good daily routine; she eats well and sleeps through the night. May's parents are unable to take care of her, so she urgently needs a long-term family who will be able to adopt her, if she becomes eligible for adoption. Ideally, an Inuit or an Aboriginal family would be preferred, who can make a permanent commitment.

A foster home is being sought for an active healthy 13-month-old boy of Inuit heritage. Michael is a happy baby who loves to eat, play and have fun. He is walking, takes a nap during the day and sleeps through the night. His parents are not able to care for him, thus he is in need of a long-term foster family who will be able to make the commitment to adopt him if he becomes adoptable. A family of Inuit heritage would be ideal.

For more information about these children, please call Batshaw Youth and Family Centres at 514-932-7161, local 1139.

Comic strip courtesy of Tundra Comics: www.tundracomics.com



The road to safer homes and stronger communities

Crees converge with experts in Chisasibi to share, discuss and learn about domestic violence

By Amy German

The subject of domestic violence was addressed in Chisasibi from November 16-18 at the Family Violence Symposium with the hopes that in years to come, policies and programs will exist to curb violence in the Cree communities.

For some it seems violence has become a way of life in the Cree communities. Before colonization it would have been unthinkable for Crees to beat their spouse or child. The struggle for survival took precedence over everything else, and harmony amongst the Cree was essential.

But then the white man arrived and after centuries of genocide and various sinister attempts of assimilating the Cree through government-sanctioned efforts, such the residential school system, that harmony was destroyed.

Today there is a legacy of abuse that Crees cyclically inflict upon each other for whatever reason and that was why the Cree Justice Department decided to team up with the Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee Association (CWEIA) along with other entities so that a new phase can begin – one will attempt to restore the harmony that once was.

According to Justice Director Donald Nicholls, interpersonal violence is the priority for the Cree justice system because it accounts for 40% of all crime in the region.

With that it became important to create an event for those involved in programming development, such as the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay (CBHSSJB), the Cree School Board, the communities, and the religious leadership, to examine programs that had worked in similar areas and hear from experts in the field. As many of the Cree entities are currently involved in developing programs to combat issues like bullying, domestic violence, Elder abuse and child abuse, it was important to bring together all them.

Nicholls said that when planning the event it was important to select speakers and workshop facilitators who were not only experts in their fields but had worked in these fields for several decades and/or had worked specifically with Aboriginal communities.

The objective of the symposium was not only to identify where the problems were or to present statistics on the issues, but to address the roots of the problem, discuss means of intervention and look at programs and services that

could remedy the hurts that have existed for decades.

"For us it was very important to bring in people who were making a difference. We wanted people who could reach out and touch others because to make a difference, each individual needs to be able to wake up and want to make a difference. People think this is such a big issue, but it's really a personal issue, and individual one. We want change whether it's just one person at a time or one home or one classroom or one work place or one community. We want to make a difference and have an impact, so we will do it one day at a time and start wherever we can," said Nicholls.

According to Doris Bobbish, President of the CWEIA, the project has been in the works for many years and to finally hold the symposium was a "reality come true". Even before the CWEIA incorporated in 2009, women in Eeyou Istchee had been discussing the issue for years.

"We wanted to have a variety of approaches in looking at family violence, especially violence against women, and we had several presenters who did focus their presentations on that. Then there were other issues presented, that we all look at ourselves as an individual with four elements: the physical, the mental, the emotional and the spiritual. We wanted to cover as many areas as we could. There are some people who only understand or know one particular area and that is usually just the physical or when the abuse begins as something physical," said Bobbish.

In order to address the issue as a whole, the event featured speakers from academic, administrative, political and spiritual backgrounds as well as those who have set up shelters, participated in women's organizations, or worked in law enforcement. The CWEIA's fitness instructor, Theresa Ducharme, was there to get the delegates to work up a little sweat through a brief aerobic workout twice a day to ease the stress of the event.

Bobbish said the event was a good way to break the silence about the issue and make it clear that enough is enough when it came to violence. It was also a good way to get the information that they had accumulated through these experts to the public in order to be considered for upcoming public policy.

"We're not at that stage yet where we can fully say this is what we want or need. But at least the information is there for those who would like to do something about it or to act upon it. There are resources out there that we can connect to," said Bobbish.

While Ducharme was on hand to get the delegates blood pumping through exercise, she also ran a workshop with a former colleague from her days of working at the Native Women's Association of Canada.

In their workshop, Ducharme and Pauline Huppie-Parsons addressed violence against women in terms of the alarming number of missing and murdered Aboriginal women in Canada and the kinds of things women can do to prevent becoming a statistic.

"I gave tips but I also put the faces to the stats. Everybody hears about the stats but I actually told stories of certain family members and also just again that prevention. A lot of our young women and older women from the north who come to the bigger cities don't have any resources or know where to go," said Ducharme.

In light of this, Ducharme and Huppie-Parsons said they presented their participants with scenarios so that they can prepare a plan should something occur, they likened it to having a plan for when a fire breaks out or any other emergency.

"It's about listening to your gut instinct. If it doesn't feel right, listen to your gut. It's about making those conscious decisions. If you're at a party and there are 20 guys and you and your friend are the only women, maybe it's not a good idea to hang out there. It is about thinking about those decisions and acting on them, getting out of there or phoning a friend or knowing what to do as opposed to not knowing what to do and ending up in a vulnerable position," said Huppie-Parsons

Outgoing Quebec Native Women Incorporated President, Ellen Gabriel did a special presentation on how violence was not part of the ancestral history of Aboriginals but a negative impact of colonization and the residential school system.

"In order for us to be able to stop this cycle of violence, we need to discuss in the way that we are doing at this symposium. It is a wonderful initiative and we need to understand the historical roots to the violence in the communities. Understanding that is one of the first steps but being able to talk about it and to break that silence is another," said Gabriel.

Montana-based psychologist Eduardo Duran spoke to the delegates about the minds and souls of the abused and abusers. Addressing the spiritual culture of Indigenous peoples, he put abuse its spiritual context.

"The reason I use that comparison to sorcery or witchcraft is because the intent of the perpetrator usually goes into the victim and because of that it is a

spiritual act and any spiritual act is either a holy act or it is a negative, demonic act.

"When a perpetrator hurts someone it is not holy so therefore it has to be the other one. There is only two choices," said Duran.

Duran spoke of how common it was for him to see individuals who had already been to five or six therapists but who still were in pain as they had never addressed the sort of spiritual "infection" that was caused by the abuse they suffered.

Duran said that when western therapists are not available or not working, there are other resources within the traditional Cree community such as Elders or traditional healers who could be utilized. He suggested that western therapists work in conjunction with traditional healers and this should not be a conflict to the religious community.

"I have made references to the Christian faith because if you go with natural law then Christianity is also based on that. In terms of Christ and the traditionalists, if Christ was here in Cree country he would be very comfortable working with the traditional people because Christ himself was one of the original shaman. Christ embodied the medicine man because it was through his own body that we are healed right?" said Duran.

Dr. Douglas McNaughthon, a Chisasibi-based minister, ran a workshop that focused on the tensions between the different faiths within the communities.

"We talked about specific things that are still going on within the communities. One community is more Pentecostal in parts than others and so the others all say that it's mandoweemhow or believing in bad spirits and that is spiritual abuse. To say that another person's relationship with God is wrong or evil is abusive. This kind of thing goes on a lot," said McNaughthon.

At the heart of it, he said this behaviour is not necessary but a choice.

Pastor Gordon Petawabano, of Mistissini, spoke about what he was taking in and how it will help him in his own career since he does a great deal of counseling.

"This is the first time I am at this kind of conference as usually the kind of conference I go to (relates) more to me being a pastor. This one is a lot more open and I like it because I can hear the other perspectives on belief. The main thing here is not to push anybody away, especially in what they believe as what I believe is that it is through Jesus Christ that we can be healed," Petawabano said.

Petawabano said in the future he will have a better understanding of people of different faiths after attending the symposium.

Over from Sault-St-Marie, Ontario, Brenda Combs came to the symposium to present a number of issues after having dedicated her life to running a family-crisis shelter and has worked in various capacities to help other Native groups from across Canada and the US to offer family-crisis services to their communities.

Delivering a keynote address on domestic violence and best practices in Aboriginal communities with and with-

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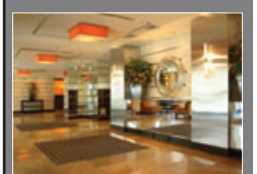

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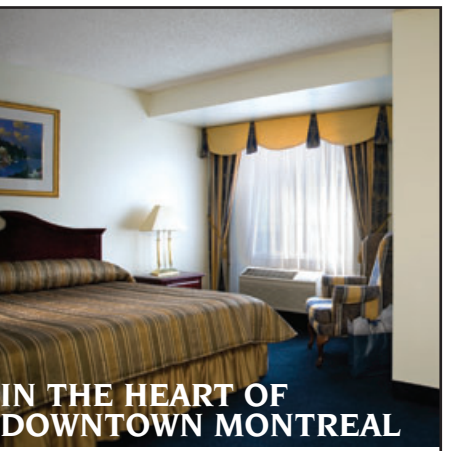

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out shelters, Combs said that what she likes to do is go into a community and help them to set up services that are culturally appropriate based on what the community wants and do it with little resources if necessary.

One way she suggested that it is possible to set up services without financial resources is to incorporate volunteers and then do fundraising. She suggested using the local bingo as a means of raising funds. She suggested that those who need healing go to their Elders and go back to traditional ceremonies and rituals because they are powerful and can be very healing.

"For some of the communities, they already have the healing there but they don't know how to get it restarted. This is what I work with within the communities: work with what you have," said Combs.

Lisa Petagumskum was at the conference to listen to the many speakers and presenters on behalf of the Cree Health Board, which is in the process of developing new services and programs. As the symposium was being aired directly on regional radio, Petagumskum said it was a great opportunity for the Cree to take in the information in the comfort of their own homes as next year the CBHSSJB will be touring the communities to ask Crees how they want to address the issue of family violence.

"We will be doing a needs assessment because we need to develop a regional orientation on the issue of domestic violence and so there is development of programs, policies, procedures and protocols on this issue. What this comes down to is that we don't want this to just be a formality process on what people want to do with their communities and whether they agree or disagree," said Petagumskum.

While a lot of information was shared and presented, with it came an outpouring of emotion as many opened themselves up to the issues and their long-time hurt. While its impacts may not be felt widespread for some time to come, many a seed was planted in the hopes that peace can one day be restored.

Hurry down the chimney tonight!

The Nation's 2010 guide to gift buying

By Amy German

As the snow begins to settle in for the season and the days grow shorter, Christmas is finally in the air and if you haven't already started, the time to start checking those lists to see who's been naughty or nice.

Already the malls are packed with frantic shoppers looking to get their loved ones the perfect thing to go under the tree come Christmas morning. The big question is just what would that perfect present be?

For those in doubt, don't fear as the Nation has once again booked a special sit down with the man in red to see what's hot this season and just about guaranteed to cause the oohs, ahhs and the "I can't believe it".

So, if you are undecided on what you should be hunting down for your nearest and dearest this season, read on as Santa has given us the skinny on what to get for her, for him and the whole rest of the family.

LUXURIES FOR THE LADIES

Gifts for the high-tech chick

If your lady love is expecting, why not get her something that will help her introduce songs and warm vibrations to the little one on the way? With Belly Buds Pregnancy Bellyphones you can play music or playback voices to the little one with their specially designed adhering speakers that attach to mommy's belly. Especially if mom has gone away to deliver, this gift is ideal as the babies will hear the voices of those waiting for them back at home. Available through various online retailers, such as Amazon.ca for about $49.99. For more info: www.bellybuds.com/

If the lucky lady on your list is the type to forgo the shoe store to shop electronics or she is just all about recording those special moments in time

from baby's first steps to those rare moments when everyone is in the same room with a smile on their face, why not get her a pocket-sized camcorder?

The Sony Bloggie Touch can capture Full HD video and 12.8-megapixel still shots on the drop of a dime from a camera no larger than your average cellphone. Featuring a simple single record button and a large touch screen for showcasing your shots and videos, this versatile and easy-to-use camera is perfect for uploading videos online. It retails for about $199. For more info: www.futureshop.ca/en-ca/product/id/10156829.aspx

If she's the type of gal who likes to get her blood pumping by dancing around the living room or likes to boogie down with her pals on girl's night in, and if you really want to spoil her, go for Sonos Wireless Music System S5 for the ultimate in room filling sound. Featuring five speakers powered by five dedicated digital amplifiers. With two tweeters, two mid-range drivers and one subwoofer, this wireless music system is like having a professional sound system in your own home with its superior technology. Available at various electronics retailers, such as Future Shop for about $479.99. For more info: www.sonos.com

Glitter & glamour for the fashionista

What girl doesn't like the odd bauble or two to spice up her wardrobe for a night out or even something causal for every day? If you are looking for something simple and classic, Zellers has a wide selection of sterling silver, sterling and gold plate and gold jewelry that is both

affordable and appealing such as the Younique Silver Bracelet with Bonus Earrings. Available for $79.97, this sterling silver 7.5mm Ball Bracelet with Bonus 10mm Ball Studs is the perfect set to surprise her with on Christmas morning. Not her style? Zellers has plenty of other jewelry items starting at $29.99. For more info: www.zellers.com/toyngift/Products.aspx?catId=48&Language=en#

If she's the type to go for something classy yet chic, Birks Canada always has a spectacular selection of stunning pieces that would please any gal. This season Birks is featuring a number of exclusive items including this Birks Love Collection, Heart Band Ring, in sterling silver for $150. Simple and elegant, more info can be found at www.birks.com/en/featured/HolidayGuide/Under-250/g969-970/5000153477

For the proud Native woman who likes to adorn herself with some of Canada's most spectacular Aboriginal jewelry, the Haida of British Columbia make some of the country's most exquisite designs. Though it may set you back $400, there is no comparing gold and silver Haida jewelry, such as this divine Cycle of the Salmon necklace by carver Bill Bellis in silver and 14k gold for $475. Available online, Crystal Cabin Jewelry has a unique selection of Haida jewelry: http://crystalcabingallery.com/index.asp?p=78

Is she a handbag fanatic? If you are looking to get her something classic and elegant with a Native flair, also from British Columbia, famed Native designer Dorothy Grant has some spectacular handbags on sale right now on her website. Available in basic black or cherry red, Grant's "Vancouver bag" measures 22 x 17 x 12.5cm with 33cm leather handles and features Haida designs embossed on it. Though this bag normally retails for $225, it is currently available for $165. For more info: www.dorothygrant.com/vancouver-bag

For the active and outdoorsy girl

Before she heads out to the bush this season, why not give her something to keep her "tootsies" warm with Mountain Equipment Coop's Bridgedale All Mountain Socks. Available in various designs and colours, this is Bridgedale's thickest and warmest sock available since it was designed for outdoor activities such as skiing and skating. With thermal protection for extreme conditions, these babies retail for $21 and are available at www.mec.ca/

Is she trying to get into shape? Joining the gym or participating in a fitness

course in the community? Why not surprise her with workout clothes from Lulu Lemon's exclusive yoga-inspired fitness wear? Featuring the ultimate in high-quality fitness wear, yoga pants, jackets, underwear and accessories, it may be pricier than the average store but it lasts for years. With pants starting at $98, Lulu Lemon's designs are extremely comfortable and chic and a wonderful way to inspire her to get healthy. For more info: http://shop.lululemon.com/women_pants/pl/c/560.html

As it may end up being a really cold season, why not keep her warm at the camp or out with the family in the community with a new Canada Goose Ladies Camp Down Coat. This lightweight windproof long-length coat is both fashionable and incredibly warm with its slim insulated fit design. Made from genuine goose feathers, it retails for $425 at Le Baron Sports and other models and designs are also available. For more info: www.lebaron.ca/index_fall_eng.htm

GREAT STUFF FOR GUYS

Gadget gear

Without a doubt, the iPad is still be a hot ticket item this holiday season. Though Eeyou Istchee is still without 3g service, the iPad with Wi-Fi is an unbelievable machine at a startlingly decent price for an Apple product. With the 16GB model starting at only $549, your guy can become the new cool kid at the office or while attending classes. For more info: http://store.apple.com/ca/browse/home/shop_ipad/family/ipad?mco=OTY2ODA0NQ

If he's the type of guy who is always on the road, why not give him the gift that ensures that he always gets there on time and in one piece, a brand new GPS system for the car. TomTom GPS navigation systems are the height of technology and are widely available at most electronic and department stores. The TomTom XL 335S is currently being featured at Best Buy Canada stores for only $99, which is fantastic considering that it's a widescreen model. It will guide you

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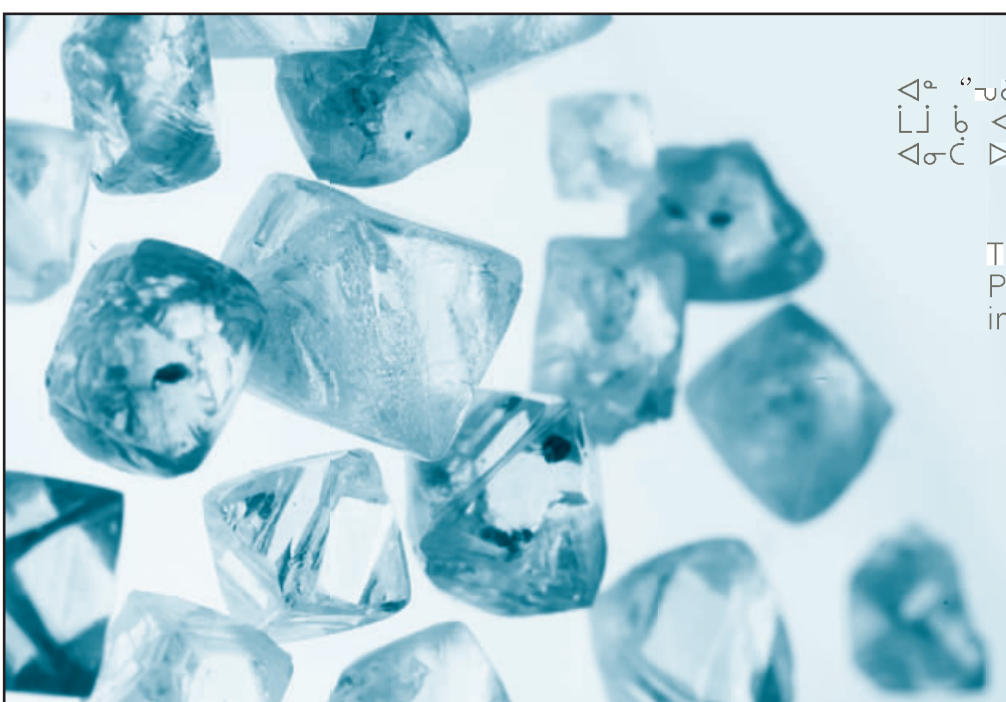

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Looking for a gadget that will both wow him and appeal to his sense of respect for the environment? Why not get him the Eco Solutions Solar-Powered Auto Vent Fan? Made from recycled plastic, this unique item is designed to keep the car cool when parked in the sun. It requires no plugs, comes with a window attachment and is an eco-friendly alternative to running the car battery. Available online at Amazon.com, this tech-tastic item retails for $26.95. For more info: www.amazon.com/Eco-Solutions-Solar-Powered-Auto-Vent/sim/B002V483UM/2

If the guy on your list lives to read but feels remorse over the endless number of trees being cut down to fuel his literary habit, eReaders are still all of the rage this season and they have dropped significantly in price. The Pandigital Novel Colour Multimedia eReader is designed for reading, surfing and playing and is guaranteed to change the way you enjoy books. Ideal for the avid reader, this device can hold hundreds of books, newspapers and magazines but at just 7" it is compact and lightweight. Retails at Future Shop for $179.99. For more info: www.futureshop.ca/en-CA/category/ebook-readers-gadgets-batteries/26337.aspx

For the wild(erness) enthusiast

If all he can think about is his next trip into the bush, why not give him the perfect all-purpose tool to help him around camp? The Kelvin Multi-Tool features 23 tools in one compact cast aluminum body, 16 essential CRV screwdriver bits, features snap-action screwdriver that folds away when not in use and it also locks at 90° angle for added torque. Available for only $29.99 at Canadian Tire, a handy gadget like this could save your life. For more info: www.canadiantire.ca

If your man is the kind to pride himself on being a good shot or he is striving to improve his own, why not get him an Auto-Reset Target for practice outdoors. Ideal for one or two shooters, this 0.22 calibre only target-practice unit is perfect to set up in the yard and practice for when the geese fly or the caribou run. Available at Canadian Tire for $49.99. For more info: www.canadiantire.ca

Rapidly becoming a hit in Eeyou Istchee, Recall Designs' goose and other wild game calls are a fantastic gift for the hunter in your household. Hand crafted and expertly tuned for ultimately realistic sound, Recall offers calls for geese, turkeys, deer, crows, ducks and predators. Available in the north at Cree Sports & Outdoors in Mistissini and BC Sports in Amos. For more info: www.recalldesigns.com/

If you really want to spoil him, why not put a brand new pair of binoculars under the tree for him? Le Baron Sports offers a wide variety of binoculars that are ideal for the bush, including Bushnell Marine Waterproof Binoculars. Corrosion resistant and fully multi-coated optics for superior light transmission and brightness this 7 x 50 mm model with digital compass retails for $279.94 and will last a lifetime. For more info: www.lebaron.ca/fall%202010%20pages/bush_marine_tasco.pdf

For the Habs fan (because no other team exists in Eeyou Istchee)

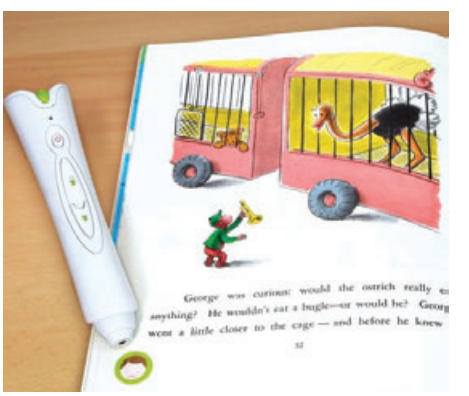
Does the man in your life live for hockey? Does he already have Montreal Canadiens socks, underwear, t-shirts and tuques? If so, why not get him this sleek and savvy NHL Rinkside Montreal Canadiens Quilted Jacket? Available in big and tall sizes, this black only jacket features the Habs logo on both the front and back of the garment and is hooded. Stylish and sporty, this item is exclusively available from the NHL Canada website for $84.99. For more info: http://shop.canada.nhl.com/product/index.jsp?productId=10793100

KIDDY CORNER

If your kids are old enough they have already told you what they want or have circled every item they like in whatever catalogues you have lying around the house. In chatting with Santa and his elves, the Nation managed to garner a few interesting ideas that are perfect for the little ones or the whole family to share.

For those nights when mom and dad can't be around or when they are just too tired to read the same story they have read hundreds of times to their little one, technology can help with the In Your Own Voice Storyteller. This handy device allows parents or caregivers to record their own voice into an electronic pen and then by attaching stickers to book pages the pen will play back the recorded voice when the child points to it. The set comes with 600 stickers that are encoded with a unique pattern of dots to facilitate the playback and an additional 40 stickers with prerecorded sounds. This product retails for $79.95. For more info: www.coolest-gadgets.com/20101111/voice-storyteller/

Every year since 1952, the non-profit agency, Canadian Toy Testing Council



(CTTC), has put out its own guide to toy buying for parents so that they can make good child- and adult-tested purchases for their families. Toys are not only ranked for play value but also for durability.

This year's guide features a bounty of suggestions and *the Nation* has painstakingly gone through it to bring you some highlights. For the full list: www.toy-testing.org

For babies aged 6-36 months, the CTTC has a number of recommendations, including the Musical Croc-Bloc Wagon from Fisher-Price. This nifty crocodile features colourful blocks that babies can stack on top of the crocodile or feed through the croc's mouth. Kids can also open up the croc to see how many treasured blocks they have collected inside. There's a squeaker on the croc's back and the croc makes baby-friendly musical sounds when the child pulls it along. For more info: www.fisher-price.com

For kiddies aged 3 and up, why not stimulate their creative side with the Finger Tracks-Finger Paint set from Djeco? This set comes with eight non-toxic paints and instructions so that kids can paint one of four exotic animals or design their own creations. It also features a colourful box and a painter's palate for the budding artiste in the family. Available at most craft and toy stores.

What little kid doesn't love magic? While children's magic kits can often be difficult to manoeuver for smaller children, the My First Magic Set from Poof-Slinky Inc. is ideal for kids aged 4 and up and comes with everything a child needs for their first home performance. There's even a DVD that comes with the set to show children how to perform their tricks and provides good learning

and growth potential for children as they learn to master the 13 tricks in the kit as well as another nine with household items. Retailing for about $24, this toy is available at multiple retailers, such as Amazon.com and Sears.

Featuring a few new twists on an old standard, the CTTC's top award for a battery-operated toy goes to VTech's Text and Chat Walkie-Talkies. While this toy functions like regular walkie-talkies, VTech has added several new features that allow children to play new games, send pre-set text messages and e-cards. The walkie-talkies feature bright and clear screens so that kids can display the games and their messages. This item has a standard range of about one kilometre and it retails for about $44.99 at most toy stores.

FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY

While it has only been in the last four decades that the landscape of Eeyou Istchee has seen modifications by Hydro-Québec and other natural-resource development, the changes have been dramatic. This is why Louise Abbot and Niels Jensen have produced a new book through the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association titled *Eeyou Istchee: The Land of the Cree*.

The book is a startling 200-photo essay that features images of Crees engaged in tradition activities, such as summer gatherings, fall moose hunts, winter wellness walks and the spring goose hunt. Featuring interviews and conversations with the Cree of Eeyou Istchee in English, French and Cree, the book is ideal to teach young Crees about their culture and inspire discussions about Cree ancestry between young and old. For more info: email COTA at karen@creetourism.ca or phone 418-745-2220.

And that concludes the Nation's 2010 holiday gift guide.

On behalf of the Nation, happy shopping and Merry Christmas!

Photo by Louise Abbot

Running Caribou from *Eeyou Istchee: The Land of the Cree*

Razzle dazzle in TO

The acclaimed documentary Reel Injun picks up three Gemini wins

By ndiamon

The very first Gemini awards ceremony took place in Toronto in 1986 and were hosted by, get this, Eugene Levy, Dave Thomas and Andrea Martin stars of SCTV and countless Hollywood movies. Some would charge that the night has been all downhill from there and they could be right when considering some of the less-than-stellar-named hosts who have followed.

Steve Smith of The Red Green Show was the host after that. Sean Cullen, Ron James, Valerie Pringle one year, Steve Smith again, Rick Mercer when he was at the height of his career, 90210's Jason Priestley, and your boyfriend George Strombolopolous, CBC's talk-show honcho. Tonight, Glee's Cory Monteith has been given the honour of entertaining the crowd and introducing the presenters.

The venue is The Winter Garden Theatre on Yonge Street in downtown Toronto and it's still the most glamorous night in Canadian television. Canada's Emmys in the nation's Manhattan is in full swing. The lights are bright as the crowds wait for nominees and presenters to arrive. The limousines pull up and a galaxy of Canada's homegrown stars swan out – Kenny Hotz and Spencer Rice, Shaun Majumder, Gavin Crawford, Nicholas Campbell, singer Ron Sexsmith, Enrico Colantoni, Peter Keleghan and Grace Park. Never heard of them?

Well, have you heard of Mark McKinney (Kid in the Hall)? Rick Mercer (This Hour Has 22 Minutes)? Feist (1, 2, 3, 4)? Or Elvis Costello, who is nominated for his brilliant music variety program Spectacle?

Also on hand but arriving limo-less was the small team from Montreal, Rezolution Pictures' Catherine Bainbridge, Christina Fon, Linda Ludwick, Anne-Marie Belhadj and Neil Diamond.

Reel Injun was being nominated for the prestigious Donald Brittain Award for best social/political documentary. This was the second nomination for that

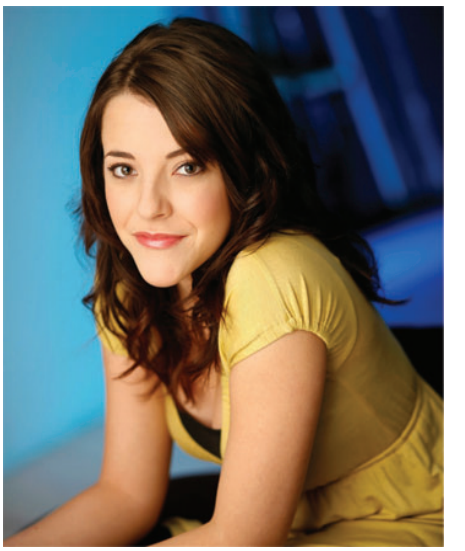
award for Rezolution Pictures. The first was in 2005 for *One More River*, the documentary about the Paix Des Braves agreement between the Cree and the Quebec government.

A couple of weekends before, *Reel Injun* won for best direction in a documentary program. The award went to Neil Diamond, Catherine Bainbridge and Jeremiah Hayes. Bainbridge and Hayes were on hand to accept the Gemini. Diamond missing in action, was allegedly at a screening somewhere in frigid Alaska.

That very same night, *Reel Injun* also picked up the Gemini for Best Visual Research, with the prize going to Elizabeth Klinck and Laura Blaney. While Claude Castonguay and Mona LaViolette remained nominees in the best original music score for a documentary program or series category.

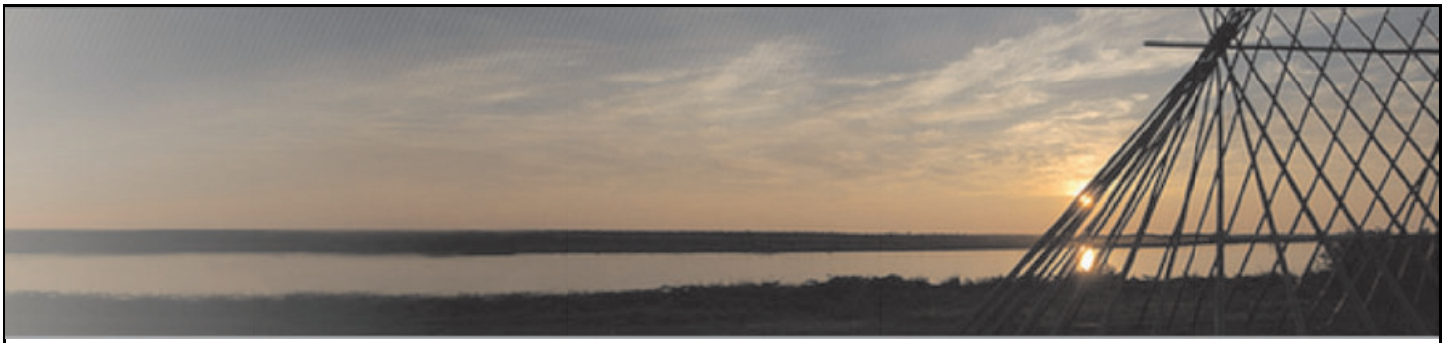
A few weeks before the award ceremonies, *Reel Injun* won the Canada Award, which honours excellence in television programming that best reflects the racial and cultural diversity of the country.

Finally, the ceremony began and the first two winners were announced. It was now time for the winner of the Donald Brittain Award to be announced and short clips from the nominees were shown. Then, "…and award goes to… Broke!" Huge applause as Rosie Dransfeld goes up and happily accepts Canada's most prestigious documentary prize. Diamond says, "Well… I'm outta here…"



The after-party is being held at the historic and luxurious Royal York Fairmount Hotel not far from the theatre. There is music, food and drink. Elvis Costello is surrounded by admirers waiting to be photographed with him. All the stars are mingling. Around midnight Elvis leaves the building. The Montreal crew are still on the dance floor celebrating their nomination and Diamond is enjoying all the free wine and food he can stand. When it gets to be too much he quietly slips away before the night is over, feeling like a winner.

A very glamorous night indeed.



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No Glo For Strateco?

Mistissini residents vote overwhelmingly against planned uranium project

By Will Nicholls

After assuring *the Nation* and others that Mistissini was on board for Strateco Resources' uranium exploration project in the Otish Mountains, Strateco was told the community didn't want the project in a hearing in Mistissini held on November 23.

The main reason that Mistissini residents rejected the project was that it could negatively affect Lake Mistissini. The potential social, economic and cultural impacts would be felt for generations and affect the Cree way of life and this was a concern that was voiced over and over at the Mistissini meeting.

Ramsey Hart of Mining Watch Canada said the project had problems as Strateco's proposal didn't back up statements with evidence. He said two of the most serious flaws were a failure to address how the 2.4 km underground ramp would interact with groundwater and to provide information about the mine that the advanced exploration project could lead to. He quoted information from an April 2010 document, that two million tons of tailings would be dumped into two nearby lakes. This information was not included in the environmental impact statement.

The message came from Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio, from Mining Watch Canada, from the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society, and from individuals living in Mistissini and from southern Quebec who traveled there for the first of two public hearings on the proposed project.

Gordon Edwards from the Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, hired by Mining Watch, reviewed aspects of the project documents. He said Strateco failed to provide information on basic aspects of radiation and its hazards. He also identified errors in the calculation of the concentrations of radioactive materials at the project site.

Shecapio was critical of Strateco for its failure to provide adequate information. He said the company did not answer the community's questions and didn't gain their trust. He expressed his community's concern over the potential for lasting impacts to wildlife and how close the project was to a new national park. Shecapio added that the mining of uranium would go against fundamental values of the Cree.

At the time of printing Strateco was in Chibougamau for another hearing. More on this topic in the next issue of *the Nation*.

letters

Open letter to the bootleggers, pushers, drug dealers, drinkers, abusers and criminals of Eastmain

The people of Eastmain have a message for you.

We have had enough of you and of the problems you are creating in our community. Problems such as child neglect, physical abuse, family break-ups and so on.

Because of you, Eastmain has become a sick community, a dirty community, a community which is no longer safe for our children, our grandchildren and our Elders.

The Eastmain Police are limited in what they can do and we, the people of Eastmain, are more than fed up with your activities. We all know who you are and if the Police can only do so much, then we intend to take action and have the Council adopt measures that will make you stop your criminal ways, measures such as house repossession, eviction, banishment from the community and providing evidence to the Police.

We will stop at nothing to put an end to your activities.

Look at the names below, you will find members of your own family, neighbours and friends that are telling you to stop what you are doing. Beware. Don't get the people more angry at you.

Keep in mind that we will be watching you.

Signed by 50 members of the Cree Nation of Eastmain

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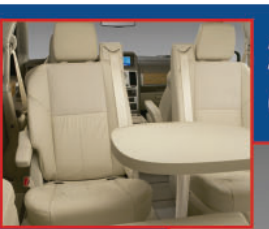

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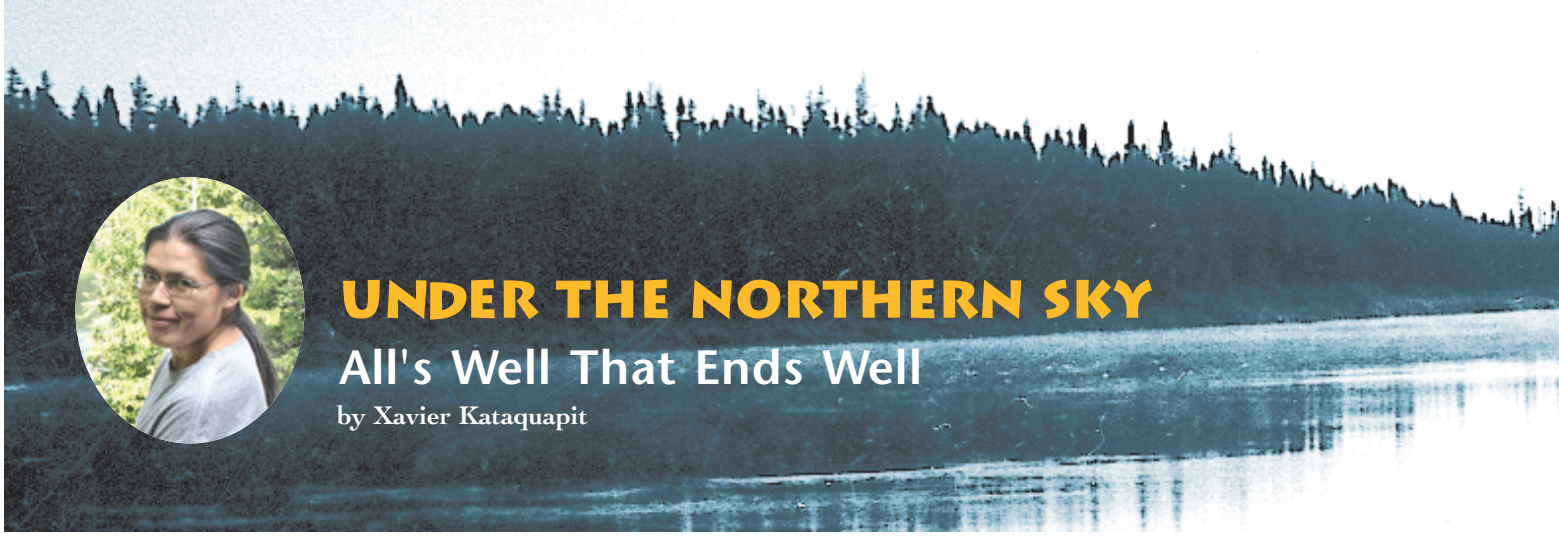

UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

All's Well That Ends Well

by Xavier Kataquapit

In November 1993, a group of eight students from my high-school English class in Attawapiskat agreed to collaborate on a Christmas play. We wrote our own script which we presented at a combined elementary school / high school Christmas concert at the JR Nakogee Elementary School gymnasium. Our group of eight students from Vezina Secondary School of differing age groups and grades were excited to take part. The project was led by our English teacher Rhonda McKay, a bright young woman who started her teaching career in Attawapiskat. This was one of the first plays to be performed in our new high school, which was only two years old. This was a special occasion as very few high school students from Attawapiskat had ever put on a Christmas school play for the community.

For a month we worked every day after school on that original play. Instead of performing a traditional European story like "A Christmas Carol" or a rendition of the biblical birth of Jesus Christ, we decided to produce something that was original and that we could connect to. We built a storyline around a Cree family living in a remote community like Attawapiskat. After much discussion we also came up with the idea that we should provide some comment on an important youth crisis that was happening in the community. Together we developed a storyline that involved a young girl's involvement in gas sniffing and the reactions of her family.

We gave the story a Walt Disney twist by creating a narrative where one of her younger brothers wished for everything to get better. His wish was heard by jolly old Santa Claus, who magically helped the troubled young girl. The story ends when our star returns home to apologize and promises never again to take part in gas sniffing.

It came as a surprise to us that staging a play involved so much. We had to do everything. The stage at JR Nakogee Elementary was just a bare open raised platform at the end of a gymnasium so we went to work to produce a real stage like one we would see in a theatre. Our teacher ordered giant rolls of black fabric, which we strategically hung from the rafters to create a dramatic backdrop. The maintenance staff pitched in to assist us in developing the lighting system so that we could properly illuminate the stage. At the new high-school technical shop, we worked together to build props and sets, which depicted a living room, an outdoor scene and Santa's workshop complete with a fireplace.

I recall feeling unsure about trying to do such an amazing thing as staging a play. This was new ground for the people of Attawapiskat as nobody I had ever known had experienced anything like a live theatre production in the past. We thought Christmas plays were for children and we worried that we would just turn ourselves into a laughing stock in front of our community. Also, most of us were just so low on self-esteem that this project seemed to be almost impossible and out of our reach. Cree people are shy to begin with so live theatre was something that scared us all.

The night of the performance is a blur to me. All I can remember was the need to complete the play as best as I could. We all felt very important that night as most of Attawapiskat filled the gymnasium to watch our performance. Our stage looked great and the lighting was the next best thing to professional. The dark drapes made it look like something from a dramatic opera and our props were actually convincing in producing a local Attawapiskat home and Santa's workshop.

Unfortunately, our theatre critics had one great complaint. You see, nobody ever heard most of what we said on stage. The fact that we had no sound system and that most of us spoke softly meant that our audience had to guess what was going on. The only line anyone clearly understood came from my cousin Peter Nakogee when he bellowed "ho ho ho" from under a heavily stuffed Santa Claus suit. True to form I made everyone laugh at the wrong time. I had two roles to play and after doing my best at being a brother to the star I had to dash off stage left and around the back while changing my clothes to return on stage right through Santa's fireplace on my hands and knees, in an elf shirt and hat. Everyone could see me behind the curtains as I ran and changed costumes frantically and that caused great laughter.

I recall spending that entire month leading up to the play as pure joy even though we were worried and scared of the process. When I think about it now, all that excitement about the play really helped in so many ways. All my troubles and worries had to take a back seat to helping to develop this play. All's well that ends well, as they say and although nobody ever heard a word I said I knew that they were excited at just being able to participate in this strange bit of organized insanity call theatre. I learned that day that anything was possible.

Internal & External Posting
Employment Opportunity

The Ouje-Bougoumou Eenuch Association invites applications for the full time permanent position of **"Director of Public Works & Capital Projects"**

Primary Objective:
Under the direction of the Director of Operations, the Director of Capital Projects and Public Works is responsible for the planning, execution, and design of major capital projects undertaken in the Community and for the supervision of the departments concerned.

GENERAL:
- University/College Degree in Civil Engineering or relevant education and work experience in the field
- Administrative management experience of at least 5 years
- Knowledge of construction project management
- Knowledge and strong financial management skills
- Must possess strong interpersonal and leadership skills
- Ability to work as a team and individually
- Ability to communicate in English, Cree (French is a definite asset)

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DEADLINE:
December 7, 2010-4:30pm

Please forward your applications to:

Carrie B. Simard
Director of Human Resources
Ouje-Bougoumou Eenuch Association
207 Opemiska Meskino
Ouje-Bougoumou, Quebec, G0W 3C0

Tel: (418) 745-3911 Fax: (418) 745-2244 Email: carrie.simard@ouje.ca

***Detailed job description is available upon request*

CLASSIFIEDS

BIRTHS

Congrats to Kayla Hill on the birth of her new born baby girl on Monday, November 22nd at 4:41pm. We know you are going to be a great mom! Take good care of her and we love you so much! May the Creator bless your new family ardah (mbh n gsl) peace and love…

BIRTHDAYS

A happy happy birthday to my daughter Ancitamae Bugden-Cookish on November 23rd, 2010. May you have a happy-happy day. Love Mom!

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my first baby boy Kaynan Lafond who is turning 4 years old on November 17, 2010. I love you, and I will make you sure you enjoy this day. Love mom-mom xox and baby bro Arlo

I would like to wish my beautiful sexy mom Christiana Petagumskum a happy birthday on November 16th. I wish you all the best mom and many many more birthdays to come. Enjoy your special day! XOXO Love you so much XOXO Love, your daughter Jeannie Mamianskum (Whap)

A birthday wish going out to my friend/love Joshua Abraham Kawapit on November 23rd. Babe I wish you all the best and many many more birthdays to come. I hope you'll enjoy your day with me and have fun at the Ozzy concert. XOXO I love you so much!! XOXO Love always, Jeannie Maria Mamianskum (Whap)

Happy birthday to my husband Ira Gunner on Nov 29th, 2010. I love you Ira and I know you'll enjoy your birthday with your family. From all of us at home, Kerisha, Troy, Anayah, Zechariah and me =)

We would like to wish our sister Maria Masty a happy belated birthday, which was on Nov. 21st, 2010. We would also like to wish our brother Steven Masty Sr. a happy birthday on Nov 27th. Enjoy your special days! From your sisters Patricia Snowboy and Deborah Kawapit xoxoxo (Whap)

CONGRATULATIONS

I want to congratulate my mother Flora Moore on getting her Master's degree at Wilfrid Laurier University in social work on Oct 29th, 2010. I was really proud of you as I saw you walk across the stage with the hundred other students; you worked so hard for this! Now I hope one of these days I can make you feel proud just as I was proud of you. I love you so much mom and I`m so happy that I met your friends who helped you and comforted you while you were so far away from home. You're the best Mom!! With love, from your daughter Jess

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Missing Children's Network: They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333.

Kid's Help Phone Line: 1-800-668-6868 (www.kidshelpphone.ca)

Youth helpline: 1-800-263-2266 (www.tel-jeunes.com)

Parent helpline: 1-800-361-5085 (www.parenthelpline.ca)

Drugs: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca)

Gambling: help and reference: 1-800-265-2626 (www.info-reference.qc.ca)

S.O.S. Conjugal Violence: 1-800-363-9010 (www.sosviolenceconjugale.com)

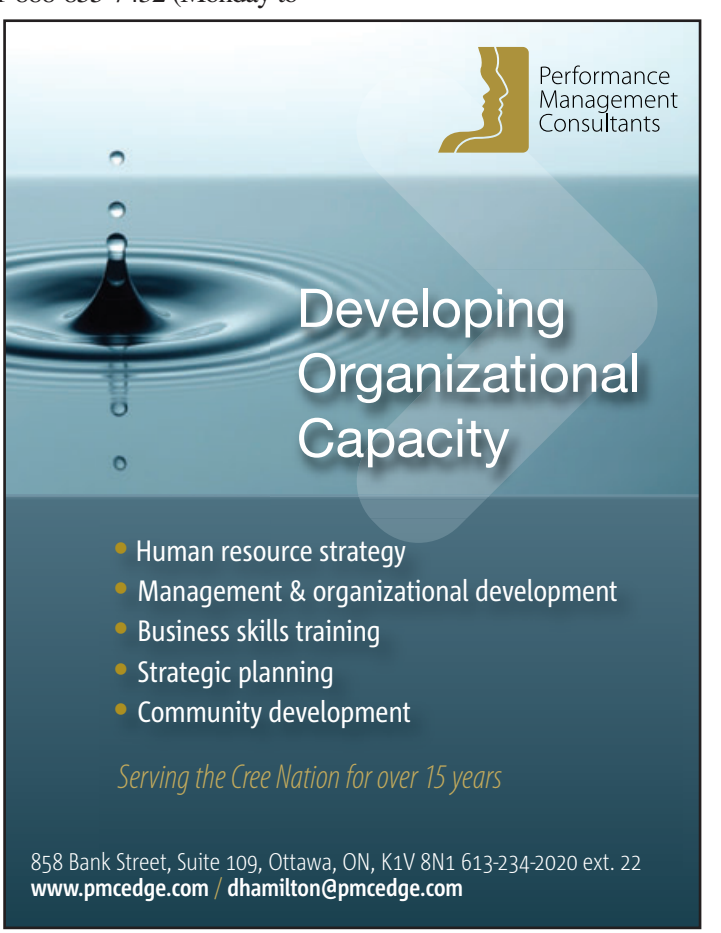
Health and Sexuality resources center: 1-888-855-7432 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm) (www.criss.org)

Gay Helpline: 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal: 1-866-403-4688. (www.nwsm.info)

Suicide Action Québec: 1-866-277-3553

Residential School Survivors: A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources.html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NEMASKA
March 23-24

WASWANIPI
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OUJE-BOUGOUMOU
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An opportunity for the communities and the Cree School Board to connect.
Further information to come.